

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
2
3
4
5
6

7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 CHRISTOPHER M. GATES,

11 v.
12 Petitioner,

13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
14 Respondent.

CASE NO. C20-0446-JCC

ORDER

15 This matter comes before the Court on Mr. Gates's 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion (Dkt. No.
16 1), the Government's answer to Mr. Gates's § 2255 motion (Dkt. No. 7) and Mr. Gates's motions
17 for leave to amend his § 2255 motion (Dkt. Nos. 8, 12–14). Having thoroughly considered the
18 parties' briefing and the relevant record, the Court finds an evidentiary hearing unnecessary and
19 hereby DISMISSES the remaining ground in Mr. Gates's § 2255 motion (Dkt. No. 1), GRANTS
20 in part and DENIES in part Mr. Gates's motions for leave to amend his § 2255 motion (Dkt. No.
21 8, 12–14), and GRANTS Mr. Gates's request for a copy of his amended motion and for excerpts
22 of record. (Dkt. No. 8 at 2–3.)

23 **I. BACKGROUND**

24 The Court assumes familiarity with the underlying facts of Mr. Gates's arrest,
25 prosecution, conviction, and the instant § 2255 motion. (*See* Dkt. No. 6 at 1–3.) Mr. Gates's
26 § 2255 motion asserted four grounds for relief; the Court dismissed Grounds 2, 3, and 4 and

1 ordered the Government to respond to Ground 1 (“Original Ground 1”). (*Id.* at 4–6.) The
 2 Government did so. (*See* Dkt. No. 7.)¹ Mr. Gates now moves to amend his § 2255 motion to
 3 assert another 18 grounds for relief. (Dkt. Nos. 8, 12–14.) He also requests (1) a complete
 4 excerpt of the record; and (2) a copy of his amended § 2255 motion. (Dkt. No. 8 at 2–3.)

5 **II. DISCUSSION**

6 **A. Remaining Ground in the Original § 2255 Motion (Dkt. No. 1)**

7 A prisoner in federal custody who believes his sentence violates the Constitution or
 8 federal law may petition the sentencing court to vacate the conviction or set aside the sentence.
 9 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a). A “collateral attack on a criminal conviction must overcome the threshold
 10 hurdle that the challenged judgment carries with it a presumption of regularity, and . . . the
 11 burden of proof is on the party seeking relief.” *Williams v. United States*, 481 F.2d 339, 346 (2d
 12 Cir. 1973). In reviewing such a petition, a court may rely on the record and evidence from the
 13 original proceeding and may employ the court’s own recollection, experience, and common
 14 sense. *Shah v. United States*, 878 F.2d 1156, 1159 (9th Cir. 1989). A court must grant an
 15 evidentiary hearing “[u]nless the motion and the files and records of the case conclusively show
 16 that the prisoner is entitled to no relief.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(b).

17 In Original Ground 1, Mr. Gates argues that the officers’ seizure of his identification was
 18 involuntary and, thus, an unlawful search and seizure. (Dkt. No. 1 at 4.) The Government argues
 19 that Original Ground 1 is procedurally barred because the Ninth Circuit decided it on direct
 20 appeal and, in the alternative, that it lacks merit. (Dkt. No. 7 at 7–8.) The Court need not decide
 21 whether Original Ground 1 is procedurally barred because the Court determines that Mr. Gates’s
 22 Original Ground 1 is barred as a Fourth Amendment exclusionary rule claim.

23 Courts enforce the Fourth Amendment’s protection against unreasonable searches and
 24

25 ¹ The Government may have overlooked that the Court has already dismissed Mr. Gates’s
 26 Original Grounds 2 through 4, because it answered each ground in Mr. Gates’s original § 2255
 motion and requested that the motion be dismissed in its entirety. (Dkt. No. 7 at 7–13.)

1 seizures through the exclusionary rule, which bars the use in criminal trials of evidence that was
 2 obtained in violation of the Fourth Amendment. *Stone v. Powell*, 428 U.S. 465, 482–83 (1976).
 3 Because exclusion is an enforcement mechanism and not a constitutional right, a prisoner cannot
 4 seek habeas relief based on the use of unconstitutionally obtained evidence if he has had a “full
 5 and fair” opportunity to litigate the claim at trial or on direct appeal. *Kimmelman v. Morrison*,
 6 477 U.S. 365, 375–76 (1989). It matters only that there was an opportunity to litigate the issue,
 7 not whether a prisoner actually did so “or even whether the claim was correctly decided.”
 8 *Newman v. Wengler*, 790 F.3d 876, 880 (9th Cir. 2015).

9 Mr. Gates had a full and fair opportunity to litigate his Fourth Amendment claims in this
 10 Court. Indeed, the Court entertained one round of motions to suppress and later granted Mr.
 11 Gates’s request to reopen those motions, hold an evidentiary hearing, and raise new arguments in
 12 a second round of motions to suppress. *See United States v. Gates*, Case No. CR15-0253-JCC,
 13 Dkt. Nos. 27–28, 72–73, 77, 85, 89, 91 (W.D. Wash. 2016). Throughout those proceedings, Mr.
 14 Gates had the opportunity to raise his instant claim, but did not properly do so. The Court,
 15 therefore, DISMISSES Original Ground 1. And because the files and record of the case
 16 conclusively show that Mr. Gates is not entitled to relief on Original Ground 1, an evidentiary
 17 hearing is unnecessary. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(b). The Court also finds that no reasonable jurist
 18 could debate whether this ground should have been resolved differently and thus DENIES a
 19 certificate of appealability as to Original Ground 1. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(3); *Miller-El v.*
 20 *Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 327 (2003).

21 **B. Motion for Leave to Amend (Dkt. No. 8)**

22 The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (“AEDPA”) requires one
 23 seeking habeas relief from a federal criminal judgment to file within a year of “the date on which
 24 the judgment of conviction becomes final.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f)(1). A conviction becomes final
 25 when the Supreme Court denies a writ of certiorari or issues a decision on the merits. *See United*
 26 *States v. Aguirre-Ganceda*, 592 F.3d 1043, 1045 (9th Cir. 2010). The Supreme Court denied Mr.

1 Gates's petition for certiorari on March 18, 2019. *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 134. Mr.
 2 Gates's original § 2255 motion falls within the limitations period, one-year from this date, (*see*
 3 Dkt. No. 1 at 12), but his proposed amendment would not; it is thus time-barred unless it relates
 4 back to Mr. Gates's original motion. *See Ross v. Williams*, 950 F.3d 1160, 1166 (9th Cir. 2020).

5 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15 applies in habeas proceedings. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2242;
 6 *Mayle v. Felix*, 545 U.S. 644, 654–55 (2005). Under Rule 15(c)(1)(B), an amended pleading
 7 relates back to the original pleading for limitations purposes when its contents arise “out of the
 8 conduct, transaction, or occurrence set out—or attempted to be set out—in the original
 9 pleading.” To determine whether an amended petition relates back, the Court must (1) determine
 10 what facts underly the claims in the amended petition; and (2) look “to see whether the original
 11 petition set out or attempted to . . . set out a corresponding factual episode, or whether the claim
 12 is instead supported by facts that differ in both time and type from those the original pleading set
 13 forth.” *Ross*, 950 F.3d at 1167 (cleaned up). The “time and type” test “refers not to the claims, or
 14 grounds for relief. Rather, it refers to *the facts that support those grounds.*” *Nguyen v. Curry*, 736
 15 F.3d 1287, 1297 (9th Cir. 2013) (emphasis original), abrogated on other grounds by *Davila v.*
 16 *Davis*, 137 S. Ct. 2058 (2017). The Court does this analysis when examining each of Mr. Gates's
 17 proposed amended grounds.

18 1. Proposed Grounds 1–9

19 Each of Mr. Gates's Proposed Grounds 1 through 9 alleges an unlawful search and
 20 seizure or errors in the Court's rulings on his motions to suppress. (Dkt. No. 8-1 at 13–26.) As
 21 mentioned, Fourth Amendment claims are generally not cognizable in federal habeas motions if
 22 there was a full and fair opportunity to litigate. *Newman*, 790 F.3d at 880. Mr. Gates had that
 23 opportunity through two rounds of motions to suppress and an evidentiary hearing. *See Gates*,
 24 CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. Nos. 27–28, 72–73, 77, 85, 89, 91. Mr. Gates does not contend otherwise

1 in his motion to amend. (*See generally* Dkt. No. 8.)² Amending his petition to assert Proposed
 2 Grounds 1 through 9 would therefore be futile, regardless of whether they relate back.³ The
 3 Court thus DENIES leave to amend as to Proposed Grounds 1 through 9.

4 2. Proposed Grounds 10 and 11

5 Proposed Grounds 10 and 11 assert that Mr. Gates's trial counsel provided ineffective
 6 assistance by failing to expressly argue that the removal of his wallet from his pocket constituted
 7 an unlawful search and seizure. (Dkt. No. 8-1 at 27–28.) While Fourth Amendment claims
 8 generally are barred in federal habeas proceedings, “Sixth Amendment ineffective-assistance-of-
 9 counsel claims which are founded primarily on incompetent representation with respect to a
 10 Fourth Amendment issue” are not. *Kimmelman*, 477 U.S. at 382–83. The Court therefore must
 11 determine whether Proposed Grounds 10 and 11 relate back to Mr. Gates's original § 2255
 12 motion. The Government concedes that they do, (Dkt. No. 9 at 11), and the Court agrees:
 13 Although Proposed Grounds 10 and 11 involve different claims, the underlying facts—officers'
 14 removal of Mr. Gates's wallet from his pocket—are the same as for Original Ground 1. (Dkt.
 15 Nos. 1 at 4; 8-1 at 27–28.)

16 The substance of Proposed Grounds 10 and 11, however, indicate that amendment would
 17 be futile because Mr. Gates cannot demonstrate ineffective assistance. An ineffective assistance
 18 claim requires showing that counsel's representation “fell below an objective standard of
 19 reasonableness” and thus prejudiced the petitioner. *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 688,
 20

21 ² In Proposed Ground 9, Mr. Gates argues that the Court “did not address the issue of the alleged
 22 unlawful seizure of petitioner's identification as raised in petitioner's second motion for
 23 reconsideration.” (Dkt. No. 8-1 at 26.) But that was because Mr. Gates did not properly raise this
 24 issue, *see United States v. Gates*, 755 F. App'x 649, 651 (9th Cir. 2018), and whether Mr. Gates
 25 actually took an opportunity to litigate his Fourth Amendment claim is irrelevant to whether he
 26 can now assert it, *Newman*, 790 F.3d at 880.

³ Additionally, many of Mr. Gates's Proposed Grounds 1 through 9 are redundant of grounds
 asserted in his original § 2255 motion. (*Compare* Dkt. No. 1 at 5–8 (Original Grounds 2–4), *with*
 Dkt. No. 8-1 at 13–20 (Proposed Grounds 1–5).) To the extent a proposed ground mirrors a
 ground the Court has already dismissed, (Dkt. No. 6 at 4–5), amendment would be doubly futile.

1 694 (1984); *see also United States v. Jeronimo*, 398 F.3d 1149, 1155 (9th Cir. 2005), *overruled*
 2 *on other grounds by United States v. Castillo*, 496 F.3d 947 (9th Cir. 2007) (en banc). In
 3 deciding whether that happened, the Court is mindful that:

4 Judicial scrutiny of counsel’s performance must be highly deferential. . . . A fair
 5 assessment of attorney performance requires that every effort be made to
 6 eliminate the distorting effects of hindsight, to reconstruct the circumstances of
 7 counsel’s challenged conduct, and to evaluate the conduct from counsel’s
 8 perspective at the time. Because of the difficulties inherent in making the
 9 evaluation, a court must indulge a strong presumption that counsel’s conduct falls
 10 within the wide range of reasonable professional assistance; that is, the defendant
 11 must overcome the presumption that, under the circumstances, the challenged
 12 action might be considered sound trial strategy.

13 *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 690 (citation omitted).

14 Here, Mr. Gates’s trial counsel in fact did assert that officers took his wallet without
 15 permission. *See Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. Nos. 70-1 at 7, 70-4 at 5, 92 at 3. Mr. Gates’s
 16 ineffective assistance claim thus seems to be that his lawyer failed to adequately preserve for
 17 appeal any arguments based on this assertion. (*See* Dkt. No. 8-1 at 28); *Gates*, 755 F. App’x at
 18 651 (declining to consider this argument for the first time on appeal). Failing to preserve an
 19 objection for appeal is not ineffective assistance if trial counsel “could have reasonably believed
 20 that an objection would have been meritless,” *Palomar v. Madden*, 777 F. App’x 859, 861 (9th
 21 Cir. 2019), and Mr. Gates must overcome the strong presumption that counsel’s failure to raise
 22 an objection was consistent with sound trial strategy, *Morris v. California*, 966 F.2d 448, 456
 23 (9th Cir. 1991).

24 Mr. Gates cannot overcome that presumption here. Officer Gross’s narrative report on the
 25 June 7, 2015 arrest—attached as an exhibit to Mr. Gates’s own motion to suppress—states that
 26 “Gates retrieved his wallet from his pants pocket and provided his WA driver’s license to Sgt.
 27 Claeys.” *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 27-1 at 2. The Court cited that same report for the
 28 statement in its order denying the motion that “Gates gave his driver’s license to Sergeant
 29 Claeys.” *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 37 at 4. At later hearing on a second motion to

1 suppress, Mr. Gates's counsel elicited testimony while cross examining Officer Gross that Mr.
 2 Gates voluntarily provided his driver's license to Sergeant Claeys. *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt.
 3 No. 117 at 25–26. Later in that hearing, Mr. Gates gave the not-necessarily-inconsistent
 4 testimony that Sergeant Claeys asked if he had identification, Mr. Gates said he did and that it
 5 was in his pocket, and Sergeant Claeys reached into his pocket and took the wallet. *Gates*, CR15-
 6 0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 118 at 39–40. In its order denying the motions to suppress, the Court
 7 summarized these facts as: "Sergeant Claeys asked for identification and Gates produced it . . .
 8 Gates presented no evidence that materially alters the Court's understanding of the facts." *Gates*,
 9 CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 91 at 5.

10 Given this evidence in the record and the Court's stated view of it, deciding not to press
 11 this issue is not an unreasonable strategy call for trial counsel. Mr. Gates cannot overcome the
 12 presumption that his counsel's performance fell within the wide range of reasonable professional
 13 assistance. Thus, letting Mr. Gates amend his § 2255 motion to assert Proposed Grounds 10 and
 14 11 would be futile and leave to amend is therefore DENIED for those grounds.

15 **C. Motion to Supplement Amended Petition (Dkt. Nos. 12–14.)**

16 Mr. Gates concedes that Proposed Grounds 12 through 14 do not relate back to his
 17 original § 2255 motion, but he asserts that the one-year statute of limitations in 28 U.S.C.
 18 § 2255(f)(1) does not apply because these grounds raise claims of actual innocence, or, in the
 19 alternative, that the limitations period is equitably tolled. (Dkt. No. 12 at 2–3.)

20 To establish equitable tolling, Mr. Gates must show that (1) he has been pursuing his
 21 rights diligently and (2) some extraordinary circumstance prevented him from timely filing.
 22 *United States v. Gilbert*, 807 F.3d 1197, 1202 (9th Cir. 2015). Mr. Gates argues that the King
 23 County Correctional Facility has unconstitutionally denied him sufficient access to legal
 24 resources, so his confinement there warrants tolling the limitations period. (Dkt. No. 12 at 4–5.)
 25 The Court disagrees. Even if there were evidence establishing what Mr. Gates alleges, courts
 26 generally hold that such facts do not warrant tolling AEDPA's statute of limitations unless there

1 is malfeasance or a long-term, total denial of access to courts.⁴

2 Thus, whether Mr. Gates can avoid the statute of limitations depends on whether he
 3 asserts a credible claim of actual innocence. Such a claim “serves as a gateway through which a
 4 petitioner may pass” despite the statute of limitations. *McQuiggin v. Perkins*, 569 U.S. 383, 386
 5 (2013). “[A]ctual innocence” means factual innocence, not mere legal insufficiency.” *Bousley v.*
 6 *United States*, 523 U.S. 614, 623 (1998). The petitioner must show that “in light of all the
 7 evidence, it is more likely than not that no reasonable juror would have convicted him.” *Id.*

8 1. Proposed Ground 12

9 Proposed Ground 12 asserts that “[p]ursuant to 21 U.S.C. [§] 822(c)(3), Petitioner was
 10 statutorily exempt from the registration requirements he was charged with violating and is
 11 legally innocent of violating 21 U.S.C. [§] 844(a).” (Dkt. No. 12 at 6.) This is an argument for
 12 legal insufficiency, not factual innocence. *See Bousley*, 523 U.S. at 623. Moreover, Mr. Gates
 13 was not convicted of violating registration requirements but rather possessing controlled
 14 substances, *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 104, and although he asserts that the Aprazolam
 15 found in his possession “was not unlawfully obtained,” he concedes that he did not obtain it via a
 16 prescription from a licensed practitioner. (Dkt. No. 13 at 1.) Proposed Ground 12 thus does not
 17 assert a claim of actual innocence and is time-barred. The Court thus DENIES leave to amend as
 18 to Proposed Ground 12.

19 ⁴ *United States v. Marin-Torres*, 430 F. Supp. 3d 736, 742 (D. Or. 2020) (denying defendant
 20 access to his legal papers for five and a half months warranted tolling). *But see Muhammad v.*
United States, 735 F.3d 812, 815 (8th Cir. 2013) (five months in special housing unit with no
 21 access to personal legal materials or law library did not warrant tolling where petitioner could
 still send letters and claimed no inability to contact courts or receive court mail); *Mathison v.*
United States, 648 F. Supp. 2d 106, 112 (D. Colo. 2009) (plaintiff’s placement in a housing unit
 22 without legal materials did not warrant tolling); *Clarke v. United States*, 367 F. Supp. 3d 72, 76
 (S.D.N.Y. 2019) (alleged confiscation of prisoner’s legal papers during transfer between
 23 facilities did not warrant tolling where nothing suggested any confiscation “was intentionally
 obstructive or wrongful”); *cf. also Rosario v. United States*, 389 F. Supp. 3d 122, 134 (D. Mass.
 24 2019) (period spent outside the United States due to petitioner’s involuntary deportation was not
 an “extraordinary circumstance” triggering equitable tolling).

1 2. Proposed Grounds 13–17.

2 Proposed Grounds 13 through 17 all relate to Mr. Gates’s contention that his conviction
 3 must be reversed under *Rehaif v. United States*, 139 S. Ct. 2191 (2019) because the Government
 4 failed to prove that he was aware of his convicted-felon status for purposes of charging him as a
 5 felon in possession of a firearm under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). (Dkt. Nos. 13 at 2–7, 14 at 9–14.)⁵

6 Under *Rehaif*, the Government in a felon-in-possession case must prove that the
 7 defendant knew he was a felon when he possessed the firearm. *See* 139 S. Ct. at 2199–2200.
 8 Where, as here, a defendant raises an unpreserved *Rehaif* claim, he cannot obtain relief under a
 9 plain-error standard unless his claim is that “he would have presented evidence at trial that he did
 10 not in fact know he was a felon.” *Greer v. United States*, 141 S. Ct. 2090, 2100 (2021). “[W]here
 11 the defendant was in fact a felon when he possessed firearms, the defendant faces an uphill climb
 12 . . . The reason is simple: If a person is a felon, he ordinarily knows he is a felon.” *Id.* at 2097.

13 Here, Mr. Gates stipulated that the Government would have been able to prove that he
 14 had been convicted of felony robbery in 2012. *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 95 at 4. The
 15 finder of fact could have inferred from this that Mr. Gates knew he was a felon. *See Greer*, 141
 16 S. Ct. at 2097. However, Mr. Gates asserts that when he was arrested in June 2015, he thought he
 17 had completed all the requirements of the sentence for his 2012 felony conviction (other than an
 18 outstanding \$100 restitution order he did not know about) and therefore that “I was no longer
 19 considered a ‘felon’ under Washington state law and was entitled to restoration of my civil
 20 rights.” (Dkt. No. 14 at 1–2; *see also* Dkt. No. 13 at 3–7.) Moreover, he argues, in 2014 he
 21 “successfully registered to vote and obtained a voter’s packet, furthering my belief that my civil
 22 rights **had been** restored.” (Dkt. No. 14 at 2) (emphasis added).

23 ⁵ Proposed Ground 13 asserts the Government failed to prove scienter; Proposed Ground 14
 24 contends that Plaintiff’s *Rehaif* argument would warrant reversal under a plain error review
 25 standard; Proposed Grounds 15 and 17 assert that Mr. Gates would not have waived a jury trial
 26 had he known that the Government had to prove scienter and that his due process rights were
 thus violated; and Proposed Ground 16 asserts that the indictment was insufficient for failure to
 allege scienter. (Dkt. Nos. 13 at 2–7, 14 at 9–14.)

1 This is significant, because “[a]ny conviction . . . for which a person . . . has had civil
 2 rights restored” does not count as a felony conviction for purposes of being a felon in possession
 3 of a firearm. 18 U.S.C. § 921(20). “If a federal defendant’s firearm rights have been restored by
 4 operation of state law, his state law conviction is invalidated for the purposes of § 922(g).”
 5 *United States v. Francisco Gutierrez*, 981 F.3d 660, 662–63 (9th Cir. 2020). Thus, if Mr. Gates
 6 truly did not know that he was legally still a felon, he could indeed be innocent of the offense.

7 True, civil rights cannot be restored under Washington law without a Certificate of
 8 Discharge under Wash. Rev. Code § 9.94A.637 and a separate process under Wash. Rev. Code
 9 § 9.41.047 to restore the right to possess firearms, *State v. Hubbard*, 428 P.3d 1192, 1193 n.1
 10 (Wash. 2018). And Mr. Gates does not allege that either had occurred. However, “[a]fter *Rehaif*,
 11 it may be that a defendant who genuinely but mistakenly believes that he has had his individual
 12 rights restored has a valid defense to a felon-in-possession charge.” *United States v. Robinson*,
 13 982 F.3d 1181, 1186 (8th Cir. 2020). Thus, to the extent Mr. Gates is arguing that he
 14 affirmatively believed his civil rights had been restored—and not merely that the Government
 15 failed to allege or prove that he had scienter—he is indeed articulating an actual innocence claim.

16 Without weighing the claim’s merits, the Court finds that justice requires letting Mr.
 17 Gates amend his § 2255 motion to assert Proposed Grounds 13 and 14 only. The Court thus
 18 GRANTS Mr. Gates’s motion to amend and assert Proposed Grounds 13 and 14.

19 Proposed Grounds 15 through 17, though (to the extent not redundant of Proposed
 20 Grounds 13 and 14), assert mere legal insufficiency or constitutional violations due to the alleged
 21 *Rehaif* error. *See* Footnote 8, *above*. They are thus time-barred and leave to amend is DENIED
 22 for Proposed Grounds 15 through 17.

23 3. Proposed Ground 18

24 Mr. Gates asserts in Proposed Ground 18 that, because he was convicted under 18 U.S.C.
 25 § 922(g)(1), which does not specify a penalty, and because the penalty that governed his
 26 sentencing is contained in § 924(a)(2), which is not mentioned in the indictment or judgment

1 against him, he is therefore “actually innocent” of the sentence that was imposed on him.” (Dkt.
 2 No. 14 at 16.) This is not a claim of actual innocence and is therefore time barred. The Court
 3 DENIES Mr. Gates’s motion to amend as to Proposed Ground 18.

4 **D. Request for Courtesy Copies**

5 Mr. Gates also asks the Court to supply him with a complete excerpt of the record and a
 6 copy of the amended § 2255 motion. (Dkt. No. 8 at 2–3.) The Court GRANTS this request and
 7 will direct the Clerk to send⁶ Mr. Gates a copy of (1) the Government’s response to Mr. Gates’s
 8 motion, with supporting papers, which include the excerpts of record from Mr. Gates’s direct
 9 appeal (Dkt. Nos. 7–7–5); and (2) his filings containing Proposed Grounds 13 and 14 (Dkt. Nos.
 10 13–14).

11 **III. CONCLUSION**

12 For the foregoing reasons, the Court ORDERS as follows:

13 1. Original Ground 1 from Mr. Gates’s original § 2255 motion (Dkt. No. 1) is
 14 DISMISSED; the Clerk is DIRECTED to terminate the Government’s response (Dkt. No. 7).

15 2. Mr. Gates’s motion to amend his § 2255 motion is GRANTED solely for
 16 purposes of asserting Proposed Grounds 13 and 14 (Dkt. Nos. 12, 13, 14 at 1–10).

17 a. Mr. Gates need not re-file his § 2255 motion; the Court will simply treat
 18 Grounds 13 and 14 (no longer “proposed”) as the operative claims.

19 b. Within 45 days of this order, the Government will file and serve an answer
 20 to Proposed Grounds 13 and 14, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules Governing § 2255 Cases
 21 in United States District Courts. The Government must limit its answer to Grounds 13 and 14
 22 and must state whether it believes an evidentiary hearing is necessary, whether there is any issue
 23 as to abuse or delay under Rule 9, and whether Mr. Gates’s motion is barred by the statute of

24 ⁶ The Court takes judicial notice that, in *Gates v. King County Correctional Facility*, Case No.
 25 C19-1185-JCC-MLP (W.D. Wash. 2019), where Mr. Gates is the plaintiff, recent filings indicate
 26 that the mailing address on file for Mr. Gates in the instant case has become stale. See *Gates*,
 C19-1185-JCC-MLP, Dkt. Nos. 53–55.) The Court will have the address updated.

limitations. The Government must note the answer for the Court's consideration on the fourth Friday after the answer is filed. Any reply from Mr. Gates is due no later than that noting date.

3. Except as stated above, Mr. Gates's motions to amend his § 2255 motion (Dkt. Nos. 8, 12, 14 at 11–17) are DENIED.

4. The Clerk is DIRECTED to do the following:

a. Update Mr. Gates's mailing address to match the address shown for him on the docket for Case No. C19-1185-JCC-MLP.

b. Send to Mr. Gates a copy of each of the following: (1) this order; (2) the Government's response to Mr. Gates's original motion, with supporting papers (Dkt. Nos. 7-7-5); and (3) the filings containing Proposed Grounds 13 and 14 (Dkt. Nos. 13-14.)

5. To the extent Mr. Gates seeks more or different parts of the record, he must file a motion clarifying what portions he wants and explaining why they are necessary.

DATED this 10th day of December 2021.

Joh C Coyne

John C. Coughenour
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE